

COUNTRY DATA: Venezuela

: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen, who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959. Hugo CHAVEZ, president since 1999, seeks to implement his "21st Century Socialism," which purports to alleviate social ills while at the same time attacking capitalist globalization and existing democratic institutions. Current concerns include: a weakening of democratic institutions, political polarization, a politicized military, drug-related violence along the Colombian border, overdependence on the petroleum industry with its price fluctuations, and irresponsible mining operations that are endangering the rain forest and indigenous peoples.

GEOGRAPHY

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| Location | Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, between Colombia and Guyana |
| Area | total: 912,050 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>33</u> land: 882,050 sq km water: 30,000 sq km |
| Climate | <u>Current Weather</u> tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands |
| Natural Resources | petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds |
| Total Renewable Water Resources | 1,233.2 cu km (2000) |
| Freshwater Withdrawal | total: 8.37 cu km/yr (6%/7%/47%) per capita: 313 cu m/yr (2000) |
| Natural Hazards | subject to floods, rockslides, mudslides; periodic droughts |
| Environmental | sewage pollution of Lago de Valencia; oil and urban pollution of Lago de Maracaibo; |

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| Issues | deforestation; soil degradation; urban and industrial pollution, especially along the Caribbean coast; threat to the rainforest ecosystem from irresponsible mining operations |
| PEOPLE | |
| Population | 27,223,228 (July 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 45 |
| Ethnic Groups | Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Arab, German, African, indigenous people |
| Religions | nominally Roman Catholic 96%, Protestant 2%, other 2% |
| Languages | Spanish (official), numerous indigenous dialects |
| Literacy Rate | definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 93% male: 93.3% female: 92.7% (2001 census) |
| Major Infectious Diseases | degree of risk: high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea vectorborne disease: dengue fever and malaria (2009) |
| GOVERNMENT | |
| Type | federal republic |
| Independence | 5 July 1811 (from Spain) |
| Constitution | 30 December 1999 |
| Legal System | open, adversarial court system; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction |
| ECONOMY | |
| Agricultural Products | corn, sorghum, sugarcane, rice, bananas, vegetables, coffee; beef, pork, milk, eggs; fish |
| Industries | petroleum, construction materials, food processing, textiles; iron ore mining, steel, aluminum; motor vehicle assembly |
| Import commodities | agricultural products, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials |
| Import Partners | US 23.66%, Colombia 14.43%, Brazil 9.13%, China 8.44%, Mexico 5.47% (2009) |
| Export Commodities | petroleum, bauxite and aluminum, minerals, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactures |
| Export Partners | US 35.18%, Netherlands Antilles 8.56% note: excludes oil exports; Venezuela last published petroleum figures by country in |

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| | 2008 (2009) |
| Per Capita GDP | <p>\$12,600 (2010 est.)</p> <p>country comparison to the world: <u>91</u></p> <p>\$13,200 (2009 est.)</p> <p>\$13,900 (2008 est.)</p> <p><i>note: data are in 2010 US dollars</i></p> |
| Population below poverty line | 37.9% (yearend 2005 est.) |

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Venezuela

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| General | |
| Life Expectancy at Birth (in years) | 74.2 years |
| Average number of years in School (in years) | 6.2 years |
| Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars) | \$11,846 |
| Gender Inequality | |
| Female Seats in Parliament (%) | 18.6% |
| Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older) | 33.4% |
| Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older) | 29.6% |
| Labor Force Participation Female (%) | 54% |
| Labor Force Participation Male (%) | 82.7% |
| Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%) | 95% |
| Poverty | |
| Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%) | 3.5% |
| Empowerment | |
| Number of Journalists Imprisoned | 1 |
| Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year) | 7% |
| Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials) | 20% |

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| Sustainability | |
| Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%) | 88% |
| Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%) | 12% |
| Population without Access to Water (%) | -- |
| Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%) | -- |
| Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009) | <.01% |
| Human Security | |
| Number of Refugees leaving this country | 5,800 |
| Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country | -- |
| Prevalence of Undernourishment (%) | 12% |
| Demographics | |
| Urban Residents (% of total Population) | 93.4% |
| Health | |
| HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24) | -- |
| HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24) | -- |
| HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49) | -- |
| Other | |
| Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars) | \$2.10 |
| Population without Electricity (%) | 1.1% |

Cape Verde's Public Expenditure

